

- Dec. 85

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United States Information Agency
Under the Freedom of Information
Act. Date June 9, 1988

Date? (79) (75)
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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
FROM: P - Michael D. Schneider
SUBJECT: Letter from John R. Silber to Director

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Summary

The Director received a short personal letter from John R. Silber, the President of Boston University, transmitting a copy of Boston University's letter to P/DH concerning the proposals submitted under the Afghan Media Project.

Background

Boston University was one of five organizations which were invited by the Agency to submit detailed grant proposals by December 9, 1985. The invitations resulted from the recommendation of a senior agency evaluation panel which reviewed 23 concept papers submitted by the public in response to the Agency's Federal Register announcement of August 26, 1985. Because of a disagreement between Mr. Silber and the Dean of the School's College of Communications on the approach to training requirements under the Afghan Media Project, Boston University submitted two separate grant proposals. These proposals will be reviewed by the evaluation panel on December 19 and a recommendation made to the Agency. Preliminarily it appears that Boston University has a good chance to participate in the program as a sub-contractor to the principal grantee based upon its experience in training Third World journalists.

Recommendation

That the Director sign the enclosed response to Mr. Silber's letter.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____ DATE _____
DISCUSS _____

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CC: DD
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Drafted: P/DH:SGeffer:mb:#4847s
Clearances: P/D - JMosher _____
P - McConnell _____
D/SS _____

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of December 6 indicating your willingness to assist in negating the blackout the Soviets have imposed on their activities in Afghanistan (see copy attached). I also appreciate your sending me a copy of your correspondence transmitting proposals submitted by Boston University under the Afghan Media Project. I understand that a panel composed of senior Agency officers with expertise in the relevant fields, along with a representative from the private sector, convened on December 19 to evaluate your proposal along with the others. The evaluation process is currently in progress. I can assure you that Boston University's proposals will be given the highest consideration.

As you are aware, Congress has charged USIA with the formidable task of promoting the establishment of an independent Afghan media service by the Afghan people and the training of Afghans in media and media related fields. I am sure that you are aware of the difficulties inherent in achieving a successful resolution of the task set out for us. However, with adequate resources and the cooperation of organizations such as Boston University and others, USIA will succeed in its efforts to help the Afghan people to tell their story.

We continue to strive, through our collective efforts, for the withdrawal of the Soviet military forces and an end to the suffering of the Afghan people so that they may become the masters of their own destiny.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Mr. John R. Silber
Boston University
147 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215

Clearance:D/SS____ P/D - JMoshier____ P - MEConnell____

cc:DD

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NEA

D/S

12/18

United States Information Agency
ACTION REQUEST
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFF



TO: P DATE: 12/12/85 D/SS No. 8511569SJ
Deadline: NOON 12/19/85

ACTION:

Reply for signature of:

☒ Director

☐ Deputy Director

☐ Acting Director

☐ Associate Director

☐ General Counsel and Congressional Liaison

☐ Direct reply

☐ Appropriate action

☐ Comment and recommendation

☐ Information and file

☒ Clearance through D/SS

☐ Notify D/SS

COPIES:

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☐ VOA

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OTHER:

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ACTION REQUEST

ACTION OFFICER: P/D

ASSIGNMENT OFFICER: MEC

DATE ASSIGNED: 12/13/85 DATE DUE: 12/18/85

SUBJECT: 8511569sj Ltr. from John R. Silber
to Director w/encl. on Afghan Media
Proj.

Clearances to be obtained: _____

Remarks:

Please prepare cover action Memo with response.

8: 1138135



Office of the President

Boston University
147 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

December 6, 1985

The Honorable Charles Z. Wick
Director
United States Information Agency
301 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Charles:

I enclose a copy of my letter of introduction to the Boston University proposals for the USIA's Afghan Media Project. I will not burden you with the proposals themselves: I believe the letter speaks for itself.

Boston University would be delighted to help punch some holes in the blackout the Soviets have imposed on their criminal behavior in Afghanistan. The Afghans themselves have done a great job of making the Soviets pay a high military price for their imperialism. It's about time the Soviets paid a political price, too.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

John R. Silber

JRS/w

Enclosure



Office of the President

Boston University
147 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

December 6, 1985

Mr. Saul S. Gifter, Director
Afghan Media Staff
United States Information Agency, Room 550
301 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Mr. Gifter:

On behalf of Boston University, I am pleased to enclose two proposals relating to the Afghan Media Project for consideration by the United States Information Agency.

One of these submissions, prepared by the Dean and members of the faculty of the University's College of Communication, proposes a training program to be conducted in Boston. It is, I believe, accurate to say that many of those at Boston University who have considered this matter regard this as the ideal way to offer such training. I, too, believe that under appropriate circumstances this would be ideal, and I hope that you will give this proposal your careful consideration.

The other proposal, prepared under my direction by members of the central administration of the University and administrators and faculty members from the Boston University College of Communication and Center for International Relations, outlines a program in which the bulk of the training will take place in Peshawar, Pakistan. This proposal follows the guidelines established by the USIA in every particular.

All of those who have been involved in the development of these proposals have expressed their repugnance at the curtain of silence which the Soviet Union has drawn around its massive and violent invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. Boston University would consider it an honor to help pierce that curtain of silence, so that the people of the world can learn from the Afghans themselves of the terrible fate that the Soviets are trying to impose upon that tragic country, and about the courageous struggle for freedom now being waged by the Afghan people.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

John R. Silber

JRS/w
Enclosures